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Voluntary Public

Date: 9/8/2011

GAIN Report Number: PL1118

Poland

Post: Warsaw

U.S. Assistance to Poland's Conversion to Democracy Recognized

Report Categories:

Agriculture in the News

CSSF Activity Report

Approved By:

Michael Henney

Prepared By:

Agata Kingsbury

Report Highlights:

On September 6, U.S. Ambassador Lee Feinstein, Agricultural Advisor to the Polish President Professor Tomasz Borecki, Agricultural Attaché Michael Henney, Botanical Garden Director Professor Jerzy Puchalski, and Judith Phillips USDA (retired) dedicated in southern Warsaw a nature trail among American tree species and an exposition of U.S. plant cultivars in recognition of the positive role of U.S. Food Aid and Agricultural Technical Assistance Programs on Poland's reconstruction post-1989. The White House's "Let's Move Outside" initiative to encourage greater outdoor activity for physical and mental health provided inspiration for this U.S.-Polish joint activity.

General Information:

FAS Warsaw and the Powsin Botanical Garden of Warsaw joined forces to create a nature trail “*From Western Catalpa to American Sweet Gum along Tulip Tree leaves*” and “*Exposition of North American plants*” located in the Botanical Garden-Center for Biological Diversity in southern Warsaw. A nature trail among American tree species and exposition of U.S. plant cultivars now established in Poland were dedicated as a living tribute to members of the U.S.-Polish Joint Commission on Humanitarian Assistance and the agricultural technical advisory teams who served in Poland in the 1990’s. The United States supported the U.S.-Polish Joint Commission, established to help Poland rebuild its rural infrastructure, with resources provided through the American Aid to Poland Act of 1988. The United States provided additional support through agricultural technical assistance programs designed to help Poland rebuild capacity in its agricultural sector, with resources provided through the U. S. Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989.

In the dedication event, U.S. Ambassador Lew Feinstein noted that “*the trail symbolizes the strength and durability of the U.S.-Polish relationship, built upon a sturdy foundation of mutual interest, respect, and collaboration. In 1988, the United States embarked on a unique trial with Poland authorized under the American Aid to Poland Act. Together we implemented a model empowering a U.S.-Polish Joint Commission to recognize societal infrastructure needs near equally with rural development requirements*”. Ambassador Feinstein stressed that programs initiated in the past continue today with the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and its Agricultural Extension Service saying “*We are reminded that the U.S.-Polish relationship is founded, sustained, and strengthened on the basis of common values such as freedom, democracy, security, and prosperity. In looking forward, as well as being here to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Polish-U.S. Joint Commission relations with the opening of the North American trail in Powsin Botanical Garden, we also are here to acknowledge the important role of the U.S. and Polish technical advisors who focused on building the production and economic capacity of Poland’s rural agricultural community. Their work is ongoing and their efforts are evident today.*”

Agricultural Attaché Michael Henney noted that “*Programs the Joint Commission and technical advisors brought to life were financed with resources provided through the American Aid to Poland Act of 1988 and the U.S. Support for Eastern European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989. Collectively, these two Acts provided nearly US\$1 billion from 1991-1998 to this country which our honorees applied wisely to the benefit of all Poland. They built community hospitals and rural waters systems, the Jewish Cultural Center in Krakow; constructed agricultural fresh markets and supported agricultural extension to rural communities and producers, to list but a few of their achievements.*”

Judith Phillips, USDA (an architect of the U.S.-Polish Joint Commission concept but presently retired), noted that “*The Joint Commission proved to be an effective development model and an example of strong public-private partnership. The success rate of the Joint Commission projects was very high, thanks to the dedication of the members and the commitment of the recipients. It's gratifying today to witness the results and know that the majority of the programs and businesses supported continue to thrive.*”

During the event Ambassador Lee Feinstein and Judith Phillips (USDA retired), assisted by Agricultural

Attaché Michael Henney, officially opened the exposition and the trail. Also the Ambassador assisted by distinguished guests planted an American Tulip Tree.



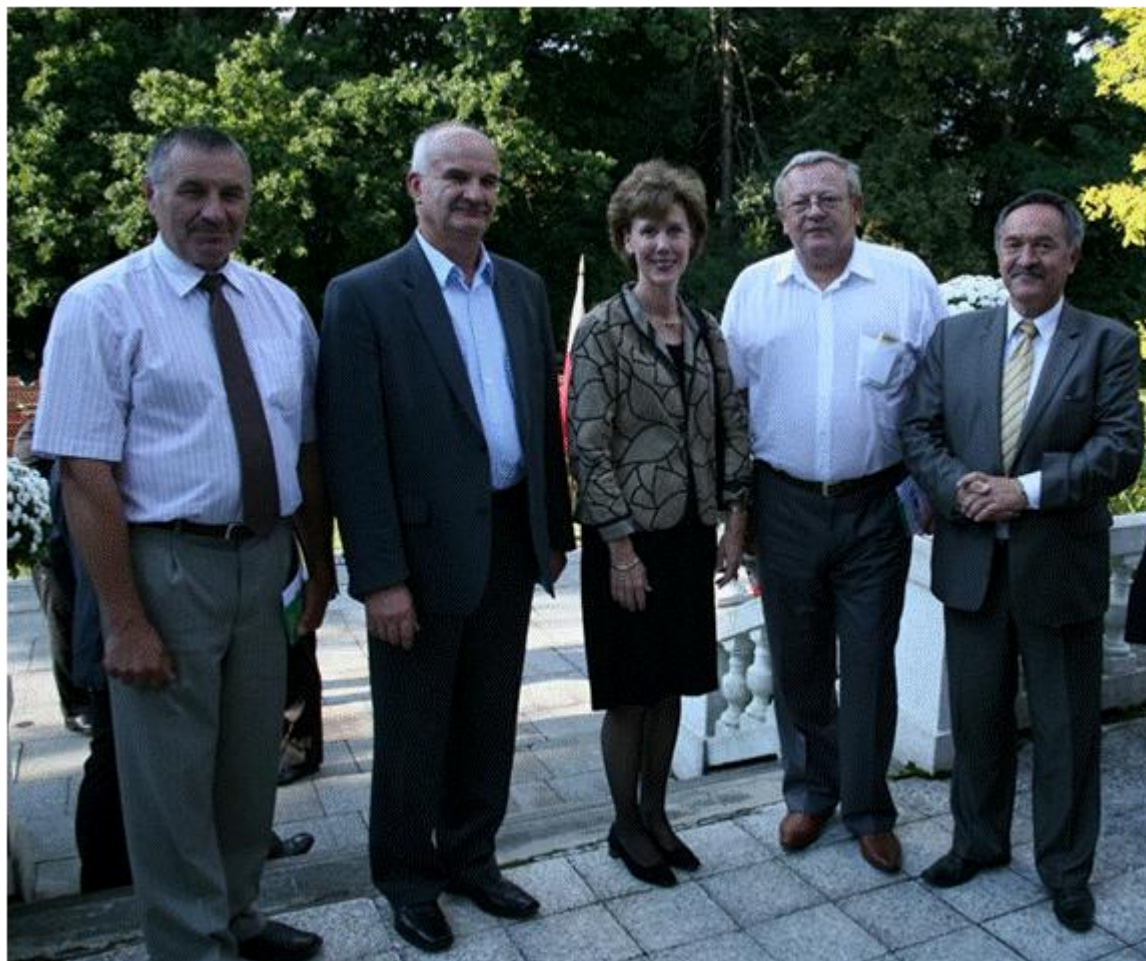
Ambassador Lee Feinstein and Judith Phillips USDA (retired), assisted by Professor Borecki (center back), Director Puchalski (right back) and Agricultural Attaché Michael Henney, officially open the plant exposition



From the left: Ambassador Lee Feinstein, Agricultural Attaché Michael Henney, Professor Tomasz Borecki Agricultural Advisor to the Polish President, and Cardinal Glemp, plant symbolic Tulip Tree.



Judith Phillips, USDA (retired) presenting remarks.



From the left: Antoni Parafinowicz, Deputy Director of Extension Service in Warmia-Mazury Region; Henryk Skórnicki, Director of Extension Service Centre in Radom; Judith Phillips, USDA (retired); Zygmunt Kiersz, Director of Extension Service in Warmia-Mazury Region, Eugeniusz Chylek, Ministry of Agriculture. All five people participated in projects in the 1990's financed under U.S. Food Aid and Agricultural Technical Assistance Programs to Poland's Reconstruction Post 1989.

Description of FAS Warsaw and Botanical Garden Project

FAS Warsaw and the Powsin Botanical Garden collaborated to create a North American nature trail “*From Western Catalpa to American Sweet Gum along Tulip Tree leaves*” and an “*Exposition of North American plants*” located in the Botanical Garden-Center for Biological Diversity in southern Warsaw. Primary goals of the project were to:

- create an educational nature trail to present interesting American tree species cultivated in the Botanical Garden over the years,
- create an exposition of American cultivars (horticultural species and varieties) descending from cultivated and wild ancestors, now established in Poland,
- dedicate the nature trail and plants exposition as a living tribute to members of the U.S.-Polish Joint Commission on Humanitarian Assistance and the agricultural technical advisory teams who served in

Poland during the 1990's during its transition to a democracy,
 - introduce the White House "Let's Move Outside" initiative to Warsaw primary, secondary and high schools through educational and physical fitness opportunities offered through a trail and exposition of popular cultivars.

Part 1 of the project: The nature trail "*From Western Catalpa to American Sweet Gum along Tulip Tree leaves*" was conceived to expose visitors to the Botanical Garden to the beauty, richness, and diversity of America's native vascular flora. From the numerous North American tree species established in the garden a trail was established around 41 species. Each trail head is marked with a bilingual signboard (English/Polish) and availability of an informational brochure showing trail map, American specie location, and pertinent information about each tree. Each noted tree is marked along the trail with educational board (signpost) providing additional pertinent information about that plant species. Signposts mark the route to facilitate sightseeing experience along the educational path.

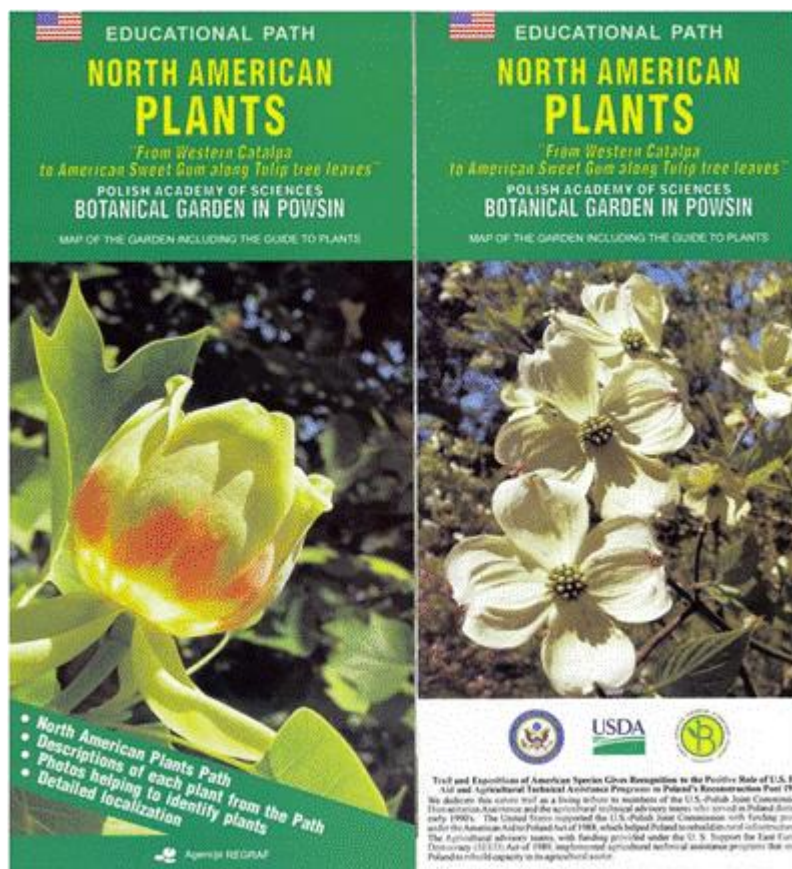
American plant species viewable along the trail:

No.	Species
1.	Western Catalpa
2.	Trumpet Vine
3.	American Sycamore
4.	Western Yellow Pine
5.	Bushy Aster
6.	Moonbeam Coreopsis
7.	Adam's needle Yucca
8.	Evening Primrose
9.	Woodoats
10.	Indian Cup Plant
11.	Nootka Cypress
12.	Smooth Withe Rod
13.	Lambkill Kalmia
14.	Sorrel Tree
15.	Clammy Azalea
16.	Drooping Leucothoe
17.	Black Gum
18.	Tulip Tree
19.	Swamp Cypress
20.	Eastern Hemlock
21.	American Wintergreen
22.	Flowering Dogwood
23.	Incense Cedar
24.	Flame Azalea
25.	Mountain Pieris
26.	Catawba Rhododendron
27.	Yellow Birch
28.	Californian Nutmeg
29.	Cucumber Tree
30.	Virginian Witch Hazel
31.	Franklin Tree
32.	Carolina Rhododendron
33.	Northern Red Oak

34.	Colorado Spruce
35.	Eastern Red Cedar
36.	Western Red Cedar
37.	Carolina Allspice
38.	Bristlecone Pine
39.	Brewer's Weeping Spruce
40.	White Fir
41.	American Sweet Gum



Nature trail signboard (including map and short introduction to the project)



Front and back of the new brochures (map and detailed description of all trees inside)

Part 2 of the project: An exposition of 38 cool temperature tolerant American-origin cultivars, inclusive of cultivated and wild tree species and garden varieties, was created. Planted in a side-garden are “Eight Little Girls” (eight varieties of Magnolia cultivars originally selected in 1965 by Dr W. Kosara from the United States National Arboretum in Washington DC). Register of American species and plant varieties found in the Botanical Garden as of August 2011 follow:

No.	Name
1	Pagoda Dogwood 'Argentea'
2	Pagoda Dogwood 'Golden Shadow'
3	Pagoda Dogwood 'Ilusion'
4	Pagoda Dogwood PINKY SPOT 'Minspot'
5	Pagoda Dogwood 'Silver Giant'
6	Pagoda Dogwood 'Winter Orange'
7	Pagoda Dogwood 'Yellow Spring'
8	Flowering Dogwood 'Autumn Gold'
9	Flowering Dogwood 'Cherokee Chief'
10	Flowering Dogwood 'Little Princess'
11	Flowering Dogwood 'Pendula'
12	Flowering Dogwood 'Pink Flame'
13	Smooth Hydrangea 'Abetwo' Incrediball™
14	Smooth Hydrangea 'Anabelle'

15	Smooth Hydrangea 'Bounty'
16	Smooth Hydrangea 'Hayes Starburst'
17	Smooth Hydrangea 'Pink Pin Cushion'
18	Smooth Hydrangea 'White Dome'
19	Tulip Tree 'Ardis'
20	Tulip Tree 'Gursztyn'
21	Tulip Tree 'Glen Gold'
22	Tulip Tree 'Heltorf'
23	Tulip Tree 'Mediopictum'
24	Tulip Tree 'Roodhaan'
25	Magnolia 'Ann'
26	Magnolia 'Betty'
27	Magnolia 'Gold Star'
28	Magnolia 'Jane'
29	Magnolia 'Judy'
30	Magnolia 'Peachy'
31	Magnolia 'Pinkie'
32	Magnolia 'Randy'
33	Magnolia 'Ricki'
34	Magnolia 'Solar Flair'
35	Magnolia 'Sun Spire'
36	Magnolia 'Susan'
37	Cucumber tree Magnolia 'Blue Opal'
38	Giant (Wester) Arborvitae 'Whipcord'



Michael Henney, Agricultural Attaché in front of new signboard at entrance to the "Eight Little Girls" Magnolia exposition



Signboard introducing new exposition of American plants



New exposition of American plants: Magnolias (Eight Little Girls), Cucumber trees, Dogwood, Tulip trees



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Tulip Tree planted by the U.S. Ambassador and distinguished guests.

